Sub-contracting by NHAI contractors

1826. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of contractors of NHAI sub-contract their work;

(b) whether NHAI allows contractors to auction their contracts in little bits;

(c) the details of the policy of NHAI in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that low quality work has resulted due to such sub-contracting of work by NHAI contractors; and

(e) the steps proposed to stop this evil practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) NHAI follows FIDIC conditions of contract which stipulates that a contractor can sub-contract part of work with the permission of Engineer (Independent Supervision Consultants) and the Employer (*i.e.* NHAI).

Sub-contracting is being permitted by the Authority upto the prescribed limit as per the provisions of contract.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Under the relevant conditions of contract (FIDIC), any approval by Engineer/NHAI for sub-contracting does not relieve the main contractor from liability or obligation under the contract and the main contractor remains responsible for the acts, defaults and negligence of the sub-contractor. As such, the work carried out by sub-contractor undergoes all the quality checks required as per the technical specifications.

Private Sector in Maritime Sector

1827. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING , ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are working out a new Maritime Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and